

Please replace claim 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

2. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 1 further comprising:  
at least one mounting aperture in said flexible body suitable for attaching said flexible body to the retina with a tack.

Please replace claim 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

3. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 2 wherein,  
said oval shaped flexible body has at least one radius of spherical curvature, which approximates the curvature of the eye, said radius decreasing near edges of said flexible body thus causing said edges of said flexible body to lift off of the retina, eliminating stress concentrations in the retina from contact with said flexible body.

Please replace claim 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

4. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 3 wherein,  
said oval shaped flexible body is made of silicone having a hardness of about 50 or less on the Shore A scale as measured with a durometer.

Please replace claim 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

11. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 2 further comprising,  
a strain relief slot in said oval shaped flexible body forming a semicircular opening around said mounting aperture which defines a strain relief internal tab in said flexible body for relief of stresses.

Please replace claim 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

12. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 11 wherein,

said oval shaped flexible body has at least one radius of spherical curvature, which approximates the curvature of the eye, said radius decreasing near edges of said flexible body thus causing said edges of said flexible body to lift off of the retina, eliminating stress concentrations in the retina from contact with said flexible body.

(Please replace claim 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

13. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 11 wherein, said strain relief internal tab is thinner than the rest of said flexible body thereby reducing stress.

(Please replace claim 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

14. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 11 wherein, said flexible body comprises silicone and said strain relief internal tab comprises a softer silicone than the rest of said flexible body.

(Please replace claim 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

15. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 11 wherein, said oval shaped flexible body comprises silicone having a hardness of about 50 or less on the Shore A scale as measured with a durometer.

(Please replace claim 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

16. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 11 further comprising, a grasping handle attached to said oval shaped flexible body for holding with a surgical instrument during implantation.

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Please replace claim 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

18. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 2 further comprising:  
a reinforcing ring surrounding said mounting aperture in said oval shaped flexible body for structural support of a surgical tack.

(Please replace claim 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

19. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 18 wherein,  
said reinforcing ring is colored to make visually locating said mounting aperture by the surgeon during surgery easier.

W (Please replace claim 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

20. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 1 further comprising:  
at least one ferromagnetic keeper in said flexible body for attaching said flexible body to the retina.

(Please replace claim 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

21. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 20 further comprising:  
a strain relief slot in said oval shaped flexible body forming a semicircular opening around said ferromagnetic keeper which defines a strain relief internal tab in said flexible body for relief of stresses.

(Please replace claim 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

22. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 20 wherein,  
said oval shaped flexible body comprises silicone having a hardness of about 50 or less on the Shore A scale as measured with a durometer.

(Please replace claim 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

23. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 20 further comprising,  
a rounded edge on said oval shaped flexible body to eliminate stress.

(Please replace claim 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

24. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 23 wherein,  
said oval shaped flexible body comprises silicone having a hardness of about 50 or less on  
the Shore A scale as measured with a durometer.

(Please replace claim 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

25. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 20 wherein,  
said oval shaped flexible body has at least one radius of spherical curvature, which  
approximates the curvature of the eye, said radius decreasing near edges of said flexible body  
thus causing said edges of said flexible body to lift off of the retina, eliminating stress  
concentrations in the retina from contact with the electrode array flexible body.

(Please replace claim 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

26. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 20 further comprising,  
a grasping handle attached to said oval shaped flexible body for holding with a surgical  
instrument during implantation.

(Please replace claim 27 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

27. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 1 wherein,  
said oval shaped flexible body has a rounded edge to eliminate stress.

(Please replace claim 28 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

28. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 1 wherein,

said oval shaped flexible body has at least one radius of spherical curvature, which approximates the curvature of the eye, said radius decreasing near edges of said flexible body thus causing said edges of said flexible body to lift off of the retina, eliminating stress concentrations in the retina from contact with the flexible body.

Please replace claim 29 with the following rewritten paragraph:

29. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 1 wherein,  
said oval shaped flexible body comprises silicone having a hardness of about 50 or less on the Shore A scale as measured with a durometer.

Please replace claim 30 with the following rewritten paragraph:

30. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 1 wherein,  
said oval shaped flexible body comprises silicone having a hardness of about 25 or less on the Shore A scale as measured with a durometer.

Please replace claim 34 with the following rewritten paragraph:

34. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 1 further comprising:  
a plurality of electrodes mounted on said flexible body and suitable for transmitting an electrical signal to the retina of the recipient of said flexible body.

Please replace claim 35 with the following rewritten paragraph:

35. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 1 further comprising:  
at least one electrode mounted on said flexible body which provides an electrical reference or ground potential.

Please replace claim 36 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a4 36. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 1 further comprising,  
a grasping handle attached to said oval shaped flexible body for holding with a surgical  
instrument during implantation.

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(Please replace claim 38 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

38. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 36 wherein,  
said oval shaped flexible body comprises silicone having a hardness of about 50 or less on  
the Shore A scale as measured with a durometer.

a5 (Please replace claim 39 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

39. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 36 wherein,  
said grasping handle is a hemi-tube to allow the insertion of a surgical tool during  
implantation surgery.

(Please replace claim 40 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

(40. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 36 wherein,  
said grasping handle is a hemi-tube with an internal hole diameter approximately equal to  
the tube wall thickness.

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(Please replace claim 48 with the following rewritten paragraph:)

ab 48. (Amended) A retinal electrode array comprising:  
a silicone flexible body having a hardness of about 50 or less on the Shore A scale as  
measured with a durometer,  
said flexible body having an oval shape,  
said flexible body having a curved shape suitable for conforming to the spherical curvature  
of the retina of the recipient's eye minimizing stress,  
said flexible body having at least one mounting aperture suitable for attaching said flexible

body to the retina,

said flexible body having a reinforcing ring surrounding said mounting aperture in said flexible body for locating said mounting aperture during surgery and for structural support of a surgical tack,

said flexible body having a strain relief slot forming a semicircular opening around said reinforcing ring for relief of stresses,

said flexible body having at least one rounded edge to eliminate stress concentrations,

said flexible body having a decreasing radius near edges of said flexible body causing said edges of said flexible body to lift off of the retina and thus eliminating stress concentrations,

ab said flexible body having a grasping handle attached to said flexible body for holding during implantation,

said flexible body having an array of conductive electrodes suitable for transmitting electrical signals to the retina,

said flexible body having at least one conductive reference electrode serving as a reference or ground potential source,

an electronics package to transmit said electrical signals to said conductive electrodes,

a feeder cable electrically coupled to said electronics package and said conductive electrodes to carry said electrical signals between said conductive electrodes and said electronics package.

( Please replace claim 50 with the following rewritten paragraph: )

50. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 1 wherein,  
an said oval shaped flexible body has a tapered edge to eliminate stress concentrations.

( Please replace claim 51 with the following rewritten paragraph: )

51. (Amended) The electrode array body according to claim 20 having,  
a tapered edge on said oval shaped flexible body to eliminate stress concentrations.